Amendments to the Claims

1 – 8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended): A method of providing RLP data checking comprising:
receiving a plurality of RLP data frames;
identifying from the RLP data frames a suspected bad frame,
reclassifying the suspected bad frame to form a reclassified frame,
wherein the reclassified frame is an erasure; and
passing the reclassified frame to a RLP data detector.

10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the step of reclassifying the suspected bad frame comprises inserting a place holder frame.

12. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the step of reclassifying the suspected bad frame comprises characterizing a received ~~a~~ valid data frame as an invalid data frame responsive to a data frame sequence parameter.

13. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~10~~ 9, further comprising the step of sequencing the plurality of RLP data frames according to data frame sequence identifiers to form a data frame sequence.

14. (original): The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of modifying the data frame sequence responsive to a data frame sequence parameter.

15. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~10~~ 9, further comprising the step of validating the data frame sequence.

16. (original): The method of claim 15, further comprising, before the validating the data frame sequence, the step of receiving a next data frame sequence.

17. (original): An apparatus for RLP data checking comprising:

a frame serialization stage, the frame serialization stage coupled to receive a plurality of RLP data frames, each of the plurality of RLP data frames having a sequence number and the frame serialization stage being operable to provide a sequenced data frame output;

a frame filter coupled to the frame serialization stage to receive the sequenced data frame output and to provide a filtered data frame output; and

wherein, place holder frames are inserted in the sequenced data frame output for suspected omitted frames, and erasure frames are inserted in the filtered data frame output for suspected bad data frames.

18. (original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the frame serialization stage is coupled to receive a next expected sequence number.

19. (original): The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the frame serialization stage is coupled to an output of a frame CRC check stage and the frame filter is coupled to an input of an RLP data layer.

20. (new): The method of claim 9 whereby the step of identifying a suspected bad frame comprises :

retrieving a data frame sequence identifier from a received valid data frame; and

comparing the data frame sequence identifier with a data frame sequence parameter.

21. (new): The method of claim 20 whereby the plurality of RLP data frames can be transmitted across a plurality of channels.

22. (new): The method of claim 21 whereby the data frame sequence parameter is a function, at least in part, of a number of channels that the plurality of RLP data frames can be transmitted across.

23. (new): The method of claim 21 whereby the data frame sequence parameter is a function, at least in part, of a number of channels determined to be in active use.

24. (new): The method of claim 23 whereby a channel is determined to be in active use by;

maintaining a consecutive erasure count for each of the channels; and

comparing at least one of the consecutive erasure counts with at least one threshold.

25. (new): The method of claim 21 whereby at least one of the channels is a Discontinuous Transmission (DTX) channel.

26. (new): The method of claim 9 wherein occurrence of the step of reclassifying the suspected bad frame is dependent on whether a channel is determined to be currently in active use.

27. (new): The method of claim 9 wherein occurrence of the step of reclassifying the suspected bad frame is dependent on an elapsed time from receiving a previous data frame sequence identifier.